

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows [a marked up version of the claim amendment(s) is appended hereto]:

1. (Five times Amended) Solid pulverulent reactive composition for the purification of a gas, comprising at least 90% by weight of sodium bicarbonate and a caking inhibitor for sodium bicarbonate and being devoid of silica, said inhibitor comprising lignite coke and/or a magnesium compound selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, magnesium hydroxide, mixtures of magnesium oxide and magnesium hydroxide and magnesium hydroxycarbonate, wherein said composition exhibiting a mean particle size of less than 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and a particle size slope of less than 5.

Please cancel Claim 3.

## REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

## **CLAIM AMENDMENT**

Support for the amendment can be found in the description p.2, 1.34 - 36.

This amendment is intended to highlight the fact that, in our invention the bicarbonate is the main active constituent whereas the magnesium compound is a caking inhibitor *additive*.

## **CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC §112**

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims with respect to the recitations  $\mu\text{m}$ . Claim 1 has been amended to correct the recitation. Moreover, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate Claim 3; and Claim 3 has been canceled.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims with respect to the recitations of D90, D50, etc. The 2 additional enclosures for the record include a page Terence Allen's